

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 have been cancelled. New claims 7-13 have been added.

In the office action mailed 1/24/03 regarding the parent case (U.S. Patent Application No. 10/003,729, now U.S. Patent No 6,724,267), claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jeong et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,094,103) in view of Rasmussen (U.S. Patent No. 5,561,398).

Claim 7 is believed to be patentable over Jeong in view of Rasmussen. Claim 7 recites stages having first and second inputs and first and second outputs. Rasmussen discloses LC tank oscillator stages in a ring oscillator where each stage has a single differential input. Jeong discloses a ring oscillator where each oscillator stage has multiple differential inputs. There is no teaching or suggestion in Jeong or Rasmussen as to how an LC tank oscillator could be connected in an oscillator stage having multiple differential inputs as disclosed in Jeong. Such teaching is only provided in the present Application in Figures 3 and 5.

Jeong et al states in the background, "VCO implemented by integrated circuit is a ring oscillator, a relaxation oscillator and an LC oscillator" (Col 1, Line 38-39). However, although Jeong et al is clearly aware of LC oscillators, the inclusion of LC tank oscillator in the oscillator disclosed by Jeong is not taught or suggested, indicating the lack of motivation for such inclusion.

Claims 8-12 depend from claim 7 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Consideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diana Y. Fu', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

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